



Congregation Emanu El

Bulletin

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Congregation Emanu El is currently offering three kinds of programs (in-person, digital and hybrid). For information on what these kinds of programs are, please visit page 4 of this *Bulletin*.

May 6, 2021 | 24 Iyar 5781

VOLUME 75 NUMBER 8

FROM RABBI HAYON



Here at Temple, our bedrock commitment to Jewish education has never weakened, even during a year when so many other things have changed.

Since last March, I have often found myself reflecting on the line in the Jerusalem Talmud which proclaims: "Teachers are the ones who truly protect the nation." Our Jewish tradition has always held teachers in extremely high regard, and the past year has demonstrated even more forcefully how much respect is due to the educators in our community.

The challenges of the past year have been particularly difficult for teachers. With patience and dedication, they have adjusted to new classroom protocols, new modes of teaching and presenting their material, and new crises in their students' lives – while remaining devoted to the students in their care.

Here at Temple, our bedrock commitment to Jewish education has never weakened, even during a year when so many other things have changed. The faculty of our Helfman Religious School, under the supervision of Stefani Carlson, our exceptional Director of Congregational Learning; and the marvelous faculty of the Becker School, under the leadership of Sarah Williams, have done

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Congregation Emanu El Hosts Annual Meeting Online Amundsen Re-Elected President; Updates Provided by Leadership

With a look at what the congregation has done this past year during the COVID pandemic and a look ahead to the increasing amounts of happenings back on campus, Emanu El held its annual meeting on Sunday, April 18.



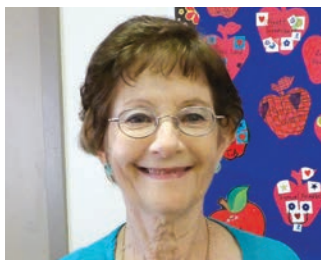
Jeri Amundsen

On Zoom for a second straight year, the annual meeting featured the election of the 2021-2022 board of trustees, in addition to updates from President Jeri Amundsen and Senior Rabbi Oren Hayon.

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Leadership Shabbat (HYBRID)

Friday, May 14, 6:00 p.m.



Congregant Judy Stein will be honored during Leadership Shabbat for 50 years of service to our Emanu El schools.

Congregation Emanu El's annual Leadership Shabbat will take place during Shabbat services. Leadership Shabbat serves as the congregation's annual opportunity to install its Board of Trustees and the elected leadership of the temple's auxiliaries.

President Jeri Amundsen will deliver the D'var Torah and we will also honor congregant Judy Stein on her 50 years of service to our Emanu El schools.

Through her work in the Becker School and Helfman Religious School, Judy has positively impacted generations of our youngest learners and their families. Her kindness and enthusiasm for Jewish education have helped countless children build strong connections with their heritage and their community. Her signature

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WORSHIP SERVICES

Locations are listed below for those seeking to use the streaming video portal on our website. Any changes will be shared via the regular synagogue communications.

Our services (with the exception of B'nei Mitzvah) are streamed to our website, Facebook page, Roku channel, and YouTube. Our Saturday morning B'nei Mitzvah services are available solely on our website.

Shabbat B'har – B'chukotai

Friday, May 7

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Barish Sanctuary

Saturday, May 8

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

Shabbat B'midbar

Friday, May 14

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Barish Sanctuary
Leadership Shabbat/Judy Stein Recognition

Saturday, May 15

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

SHAVUOT

Sunday, May 16

9:00 a.m., Consecration, Barish Sanctuary

6:00 p.m., Erev Shavuot & Confirmation,
Barish Sanctuary

Monday, May 17

10:30 a.m., Shavuot Festival Service & Yizkor,
Barish Sanctuary

Shabbat Naso

Friday, May 21

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Barish Sanctuary

Saturday, May 22

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

Shabbat B'haalot'cha

Friday, May 28

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Barish Sanctuary

Saturday, May 29

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary

Bat Mitzvah of **Shai Penchas**, daughter of Paige
Penchas, Jennifer & Jonathan Penchas

Shabbat Sh'lach L'cha

Friday, June 4

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Barish Sanctuary

Saturday, June 5

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary

Bat Mitzvah of **Kathryn Balke**, daughter of Valerie &
Bill Balke

6:00 p.m., Havdalah & Lawn Concert with the
Apollo Chamber Players

Shabbat Korach

Friday, June 11

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Barish Sanctuary

Saturday, June 12

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary

Bar Mitzvah of **Benjamin Weisman**, son of Amy
McKinney & Joseph Weisman

FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

breath-taking work at keeping our students safe, engaged, and inspired all year long. Our schools are a source of immense pride for our entire congregation, and we owe them our thanks and admiration.

In Jewish tradition, the festival of Shavuot offers a symbolic reenactment of the ancient day when the Ten Commandments were revealed to Moses at Mount Sinai. Over the centuries, this holiday has evolved into a celebration of Jewish learning writ large: an opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the many ways in which Jewish education guides and inspires us.

This year, our observance of Shavuot on **Sunday, May 16**

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will provide an opportunity to mark two ends of the continuum of Jewish learning: our 10th-grade Confirmation students and our Consecration students celebrate the completion of their first year of Jewish education. At Confirmation, our students affirm their commitments to Jewish life; at Consecration, we rejoice with our youngsters as they take their first steps into the immense breadth of Jewish learning.

As the end of the current school year approaches, I am grateful to reaffirm that ancient teaching about the importance of our teachers. As we share our prayers and hopes with this year's Confirmation and Consecration classes on May 16, I hope you will join us to celebrate these wonderful young learners, and to reaffirm once more the precious value of Jewish education in our congregational community.

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

IN THE COMMUNITY

Carl Josehart, Jewish Family Service COO, will be presented the 2021 Extraordinary Professional Leadership Award at the virtual Conference of the Network of Jewish Human Services agencies, a membership organization of 140+ agencies in the United States, Canada, and Israel. The goal of the Award is to illuminate the work of the most exemplary individuals within the Networks.

BIRTHS

Millie Florence Accardo, daughter of Nancy & Cory Accardo; granddaughter of Kay & Fred Zeidman, Dawn & Paul Dalferes, Joseph Accardo; great-granddaughter of Myra Helmstetter

Thomas Allen Levine, son of Ellen & Derek Levine; grandson of Paulette & Mel Levine, Lisa & Mike Thomas; great-grandson of Alfred Levine

Talia Chana Rogg, daughter of Arielle & Jon Rogg; granddaughter of Amy & Neal Carpenter, Ruth Rogg, William (Bill) Rogg; great-granddaughter of Rita & Joseph Gruber

Emmanuella “Emma” Simcha Seidel, daughter of Brittany & Hudson Seidel

Knox William Walker, son of Stephanie & Tommy Walker; grandson of Sherry & Michael Van

WEDDINGS

Marissa Astrich & James Dean “JD” Meador

Emily Lunstroth & Michael Hammer

DEATHS

Sybil Balasco, sister of Bea & Herschel Premack

Andra Winkelman Barr, mother of Rabbi Pamela & Jeff Silk, Tracey Barr, and Christy & Alan Barr; grandmother of JJ Silk, Ava Silk, and Sean Barr

Daniel Dror, husband of Gabriela Dror; father of Daniel II and David-Alexander.

William Klein, husband of Ruth Klein; brother of Ruth Barr, Shelly Parkhurst

Mark Levey, brother of Lila Rauch; husband of Pearl Rae Levey; father of Deborah & Alan Levey and Nancy & Jeff Cherry; grandfather of five; and great-grandfather of one

Michael Loeb, husband of Eva Loeb; brother of Jonathan Loeb; father of Julie & Steven Sacks and April & Jay Loeb; grandfather of Mary Loeb, Max Loeb, Ryan Sacks, Jacob Sacks, Maya Sacks

Jeffrey Mark, husband of Julia Mark; father of Ethan Mark, Emily Mark and Sasha Mackoff; son of Jeri & Michael Mark; brother of Jenny & Brandon Mark

Doris Schwartzberg, mother of Patti & John Schwartzberg, Merle & David Ziman, Beth & Mark Redmiles; grandmother of Rebecca Schwartzberg, Jacob Schwartzberg, Charles Ziman, Yael & Frank Ziman, Elissa Redmiles & Josh Rosenbaum

David Seligman, brother of Celine Kaplan, father of Paula & Rabbi Mark Urkowitz, Karen & Daniel Seligman; grandfather & great-grandfather of many

Hy Warshaw, husband of Shirley Warshaw; father of Deborah & John Warshaw, Shelby & Michael Warshaw, Natalie & Jonathan Warshaw; grandfather of Maya, Hannah, Noah, Jacqueline, Jaydn & Levy

A Notice About Bereavement Communications

Bereavement notices for our Temple family are distributed with the permission of the deceased's family, and the timing of these notices is dictated by the family's request. Of course, each family grieves in its own way, and we are grateful for our congregation's patience and understanding with different families' preferences about how their loss is publicized.

LEADERSHIP SHABBAT

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Torah Project, in which children create their own illustrated Torahs over the course of a year, remains one of the most treasured experiences for our Sunday school students.

While Judy has taken a break from the classroom this year, she is still actively engaged with our B'nei Mitzvah preparation program, helping our newest Jewish adults to master the English portions of the service and to understand the flow of Shabbat morning worship and

what it means to be a leader of prayer. Her firm but gentle tutelage gives our B'nei Mitzvah students the confidence they need to take their place on the Bimah and in the community.

Access to this service can be found online through our website, Roku, YouTube and Facebook. Congregants are also able to register on emanuelhouston.org to attend Shabbat in-person.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT EMANU EL

Programming at Emanu El

As Congregation Emanu El gradually migrates back to a robust program calendar, we are currently able to offer three kinds of programs to our community: in-person, online-only and hybrid. The definitions of these categories are as follows:

- **IN-PERSON.** Available for in-person attendance only. These offerings will not be livestreamed or broadcast for online audiences.
- **ONLINE-ONLY.** Designed for viewing and participation on Zoom or on one of our digital platforms (Facebook, YouTube, etc.) only. Please note that, for privacy reasons and contractual considerations, some of our online-only programs will be available for live viewing only and will not be accessible for re-broadcast after the event takes place.
- **HYBRID.** These programs include opportunities for attendees to participate in person or digitally, via Zoom or one of our live-streaming platforms.

When reviewing our program calendar, please make note of any registration requirements (RSVPs may be required), and whether the offering you wish to attend will be offered in-person, online-only, or in a hybrid format. Taking a few moments to confirm these details will help ensure the excellence of our programming and will help us to provide a positive experience for all participants.

If you have a suggestion for a program, or any questions about the details above, please contact Program Director Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713-535-6414.

Emanu El Running Club (IN-PERSON) Wednesdays, 7:45 a.m.



A photo from the initial meeting of the running club, taken on a day in which light rain was in the forecast. The group meets on Wednesday mornings at 7:45 a.m.

Calling all Emanu El runners! Join us to run around the Rice outer loop on **Wednesday mornings at 7:45 a.m.** (weather permitting). This group started in mid-April and meets weekly in the synagogue's west parking lot.

Join a member of the Emanu El clergy and staff team as we meet up together before starting our run. All paces and levels of experience are welcome – runners will set their own pace and distance. We are so excited to see you!

Taste of Talmud (HYBRID) Thursdays, May 6 & June 3, 12:30 p.m.

Do you want all the benefits of a book discussion group without the need to commit to extensive reading ahead of time? Are you curious about what this “Daf Yomi” thing you’ve heard people mention is? Do you want to connect with both your Judaism and a fun group of people?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, then join us for *A Taste of Talmud*, our monthly study of rabbinic texts, led by Director of Congregational Learning Stefani Carlson. No experience or Hebrew knowledge required: all texts are provided in translation.

This class is taking place in a “hybrid” setting starting with our May gathering.

If you are interested in attending in person, please contact Stefani Carlson at stefanic@emanuelhouston.org or 713-529-5771, ext. 251. Those seeking to engage via Zoom, can find the connection information on our website.

Shred Day at Emanu El (IN-PERSON) Wednesday, May 12, 8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Join us for a “shred day” from behind the temporary buildings on the east side of our campus.

As we provide this service for free to our congregants and Becker School families, please note that businesses are not allowed to take advantage of this service as the shred company offers the synagogue a non-profit rate.

No advanced registration required. For questions, please contact Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713-535-6414.

Work of Our Hands (IN-PERSON) Thursdays, May 13 and June 10, 10:00 a.m.

Join us on the **second Thursday of the month** as we host a group that enjoys companionship while knitting and/or crocheting shawls, bonnets, booties, lap blankets etc. for patients in the Texas Medical Center. The beauty of this mitzvah covers neo-natal infants to patients at MD Anderson.

Please know that all attendees will have to check-in at the

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Rotunda, wear masks during their stay in the building and help us maintain social distancing in the board room. Due to limited space, we are **requiring pre-event registration** to Donnie Bundman at dbundman@gmail.com.

Kids' Meals (IN-PERSON)
Wednesday, May 19, 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, June 15, 9:30 a.m.



Volunteers Marlene Rubin & Bitsy Proler helped prepare lunches for Kids Meals at their first meeting held in April. The group of 20 volunteers prepared over 1,000 sack lunches.

Join us as we prepare close to 1,000 sack lunches as Kids Meals works to end hunger amongst children.

In accordance with the synagogue's COVID protocols, there will be no food preparation on-site, Kids Meals will be providing pre-made sandwiches and our volunteers will be paired up to work at their own socially distanced station to assemble the full sack lunch.

Space is limited and the way the event is being run is subject to change as our congregation navigates guidance from the COVID Task Force. We ask that guests **RSVP to Donnie Bundman** at dbundman@gmail.com. All participants are required to wear masks and check-in at the Rotunda.

Our May gathering will take place on the third Wednesday of the month due to supplies being delivered after Shavuot. Our gatherings will resume on the third Tuesday of the month in June.

This program is funded by the Ed Wayne Hunger Fund.

Brotherhood Presents Navigating Stress during COVID with Dr. Elizabeth Slator (DIGITAL)
Wednesday, May 19, 7:00 p.m.

The Brotherhood of Congregation Emanu El will host **Dr. Elizabeth Slator** of Rice University for its next program.

During the program with Slator, we will explore navigating the stress that all of us are facing during COVID. Our



guest will talk about the mental challenges and impacts that weigh heavily on our mind before taking some questions.

Slator has been teaching and consulting in the areas of health, human performance and behavior change for nearly two decades. She currently works at Rice University, where she teaches classes on mindfulness, performance psychology, and health and wellness. When she is not in the classroom, she serves as a sport psychology consultant for the Rice Athletic Department, creates recreation and wellness programs for the Rice campus, and provides mindfulness-based personal development coaching to private clients.

To attend this event on Zoom, we ask that you register by mid-day on **Wednesday, May 19**. A link will be sent to all registrants ahead of the program.

Brotherhood programming is supported by the Brotherhood Fund.

NEW TRADITIONS

SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP

CONGREGATION EMANU EL

New Traditions Sidewalk Sale
Sunday, May 23, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Help the Sisterhood "spring clean" the New Traditions gift shop in order to make room for future items.

New Traditions will be in the west driveway on Sunday, May 23 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for a socially-distanced sale. Great buys to be had!

Now is your chance to pick something as a gift or for yourself.

When you arrive, please park in the congregation's west surface lot.

For more information, contact the Sisterhood's New Traditions gift shop at 713.529.5771, ext. 234.

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Snack Packs for SEARCH

Tuesdays, May 25 & June 22, 10:00 a.m.



In March, we hosted our first edition of 'Snack Packs for SEARCH'. All of our volunteers making snack packs for SEARCH Homeless Services came over to one side of the room for this photo.

Our monthly SEARCH volunteers returned to the building in March.

SEARCH Houston's Mobile Outreach team is in need of snack packs to distribute to individuals living on the streets who are experiencing homelessness. Our team of volunteers will fill Ziploc bags with an assortment of non-perishable snack items. Often, the packs provide the only food our neighbors have that day, and they are truly grateful.

Please know that all attendees will have to check-in at the Rotunda, wear masks during their stay in the building and help us maintain social distancing in the board room while assembling their own bags with supplies we provide.

Due to limited space, we are requiring pre-event registration to Sandy Harris at sdharr@comcast.net.

Havdalah on the Lawn with Emanu El & the Apollo Chamber Players (IN PERSON)

Saturday, June 5, 6:00 p.m.



Join Congregation Emanu El for a special Havdalah on the lawn to kick off the month of June!

All are welcome to bring their picnic dinner and blankets and join us at 6:00 p.m. for a socially distanced picnic on the front lawn. Havdalah led by a member of our clergy team will follow at 6:30 p.m. and then our evening will conclude with a one-hour performance by the Apollo Chamber Players.

To help us with COVID protocols, we are asking guests wear masks except when they are eating or drinking within the designated space marked off for their family or pod. To help us plan appropriately and limit capacity based upon space availability, **registration is required and is only open to members through Monday, May 31**. Additional spaces will become available to the community if space allows on **Tuesday, June 1**.

The Apollo Chamber Players are a string quartet that according to The Strad "performs with rhythmic flair and virtuosity" and per the *Houston Chronicle* has "found fruitful territory" through their innovative, globally inspired programming and multicultural new music commissions.

Recent winner of Chamber Music America's prestigious Residency Partnership Award, the quartet has twice performed for sold out audiences at Carnegie Hall and holds the distinction of being the first American chamber ensemble to record and perform in Cuba since the embargo was relaxed.

Additionally, Apollo is featured frequently on American Public Media's nationally-syndicated program *Performance Today* and the group has collaborated with renowned ensembles and artists including the Houston Ballet and Houston Chamber Choir, Grammy/Emmy winner and Academy Award contributor Vanessa Vo, James Dunham, Ismail Lumanovski and Indian Classical musical star Chitravina N. Ravikiran, amongst others.

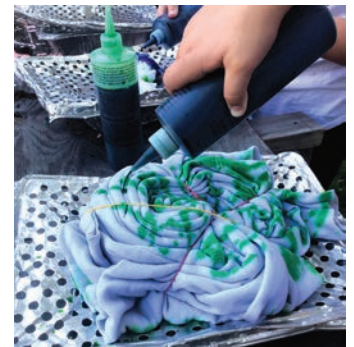
For more information, please contact Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6414.

This program is generously funded by the Shirley & Bernard Weingarten Fund and Julius & Harriet Zinn Fund.

A Tie-Dye Family Event (IN PERSON)

Sunday, June 13 - 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Learn tie-dye like a champ! Bring your 100% cotton shirts, masks, or even a pair of shorts for some creative (and slightly messy) fun. Don't wear your favorite clothes but do bring your favorite people! Join our educator/artist friend Michelle Renfrow who will guide you through all the



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different patterns you can choose and help you make your one of kind tie-dye creation. Your projects go home that day with instructions on rinsing and washing in a special solution that we will send home with you.

This event will be held in the Gaylor Parking Facility and the playground will be open as several groups take their turn to tie-dye in a socially distanced manner. Please wear your masks and feel free to bring your own snacks and water.

This event is \$5 per family and limited to the first 15 families who register online at emanuelhouston.org. Due to space limitations, this event is open to Emanu El members and Becker families only.

Any questions? Contact Jason Plotkin at 713.535.6414 or jasonp@emanuelhouston.org.

This program is generously funded by the Susman Fund for Family Programming.

30s and 40s Glass Fuse Mezzuzot Happy Hour & Havdalah Saturday, June 26, 6 p.m.

Calling all 30 and 40-year-olds!

Bring your wine and snacks – we will socialize and have a clergy-led havdalah before embarking on a project.

Learn to score and cut glass while creating a beautiful mezzuzot. Each artist will design and create their very own work of art they will proudly hang in any doorway.

Join our educator/artist friend, Michelle Renfrow, as she provides the knowledge and inspiration, the guidance and all the supplies needed to make a 6" x 2" mezuzah. It's a beautiful and fun activity and is unlike anything you have done before.

The creations will go home with Michelle and be available for pickup several days later at the synagogue with a wooden mezuzah attachment and instructions/ blessings for hanging it in your home.

The cost is \$10 per mezzuzot and space is limited.

Any questions? Contact Jason Plotkin at 713.535.6414 or jasonp@emanuelhouston.org.

SHAVUOT WEEKEND OBSERVANCE

Our annual Shavuot observance will take place at Congregation Emanu El on **Sunday, May 16** and **Monday, May 17**. Please make note that while all three services will be made available online, that each has its own restrictions for who can be in the building.

Additionally, Congregation Emanu El's administrative offices and its schools will be closed on **Monday, May 17**. Photos of our confirmation and consecration classes will be shared in future editions of the *Bulletin*.

Consecration (HYBRID) Sunday, May 16, 9:00 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate our newest Helfman Religious School students on the successful completion of their first year of Jewish education. Our Consecration ceremony, which was postponed from Simchat Torah this year, will spotlight our kindergarten class and new students in grades 1-3 in a special service on the morning of Erev Shavuot, the holiday during which we commemorate the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

The service will be streamed on our streaming video page (select Barish Sanctuary), Facebook, YouTube, and Roku channel.

Note: Instructions and information pertaining to those who are able to join us in-person have been shared with the families of our Consecration class via Helfman Religious School.

Erev Shavuot & Shavuot Yizkor (HYBRID) Sunday, May 16, 6:00 p.m. & Monday, May 17, 10:30 a.m.

Our Erev Shavuot service which includes Confirmation of our Helfman Religious School 10th graders will take place on **Sunday, May 16**. As we accommodate these families for this simcha, the service will only be open to those in the confirmandt's household.

The next morning, our Shavuot Festival & Yizkor service is scheduled to take place at 10:30 a.m. This beautiful and moving service will include a chance to remember our dearest loved ones gone but never forgotten. There is limited space available to be in the pews for this service. Please contact Shira Moses at shiram@emanuelhouston.org to secure your space.

Both services will be streamed on our streaming video page (select Barish Sanctuary), Facebook, YouTube, and Roku channel.

Sisterhood News & Happenings

May 2021



BOOK REVIEW:

The Star and the Shamrock

by Jean Grainger; reviewed by Sandi Berman

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 12:30 PM

Sisterhood hosts bi-monthly book reviews throughout the year that are open to the public. May's book review will be led by our congregant, Sandi Berman.

Please Note: This book review will be held by Zoom and the information to access will be emailed ahead of time to those who register.

A summary of our May book selection, *The Star and the Shamrock*, by Jean Grainger:

Berlin, 1939: When her husband fails to return home, Ariella concludes that the only way to ensure the safety of her Jewish children, Liesl and Erich, is to move them out of Germany via Kindertransport. A thousand miles away, Elizabeth Klein has closed herself off from the world. Losing her husband on the last day of WWI, then her child months later, she refuses to let herself love another. Elizabeth, however, is all Liesl and Erich Bannan have. The newly-formed family, together by circumstance, resilience, and reliance, locate first in Liverpool, where Elizabeth has a job teaching schoolchildren. After their house in Liverpool is destroyed in a German bombing raid, the three locate to the countryside of Northern Ireland, where they live in Elizabeth's ancestral home. Elizabeth, in turn, finds love, and Liesl and Erich are enriched, loved, and nurtured by their adopted community. [Note: *The Star and the Shamrock* is the first novel in a series of three, including *The Emerald Horizon*, Book Two, and *The Hard Way Home*, Book Three].

To help us plan for our book reviews and to receive communications about future book reviews, we ask that you kindly **RSVP by Wednesday, May 12**, by contacting the Sisterhood at sishood@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.

All Sisterhood programming is funded by the Sisterhood Fund and monies collected from Sisterhood membership.

Sisterhood Installation (DIGITAL) Wednesday, May 19, 11:30 a.m.

Please join Sisterhood for the installation of the 2021-2022 officers and board members. The installation service will be conducted by Rabbi Hayon, Rabbi Silk and Rabbi Fixler and will be enhanced by the beautiful music of Cantor Simmons.

This installation service will be conducted via Zoom. Please RSVP online at emanuelhouston.org or to the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org. Zoom information will be sent prior to the program.

Sisterhood Bakes Up Cupcakes with Sara Brook of Dessert Gallery

The Emanu El Sisterhood hosted a program with our congregant Sara Brook of Dessert Gallery. All participants in the program picked up cupcake kits from the synagogue earlier in the day. Kendall Kalmans is pictured with her setup as she watched Sara lead the program.





Pre-K Graduates for 2021



Kiam Amin, son of Shivani & Bimal Amin
Alice Asker, daughter of Jorunn Asker & Fredrik Eriksson
Harris Bronstein, son of Marianna Karpinos & Maury Bronstein
Brady Castro, son of Maris & Jason Castro
Etta Coleman-Merfish, daughter of Beth Merfish & Daniel Coleman
Maya Doustan, daughter of Joy & Michael Doustan
Reese Giga, son of Carin & Sam Giga
Riley Giga, daughter of Carin & Sam Giga
Ophelia Goonetilleke, daughter of Diana Murakhovskaya & Krishantha Goonetilleke
Isaac Gordon, son of Christine & Max Gordon
Maya Graubart, daughter of Gabriela & Steven Graubart
Phoenix Green, daughter of Larin & Taylor Green
Adrian Gutierrez, son of Farah Gabay & Gary Gutierrez-Campos
Alessandra Gutierrez, daughter of Graciela Sanabria-Gutierrez & Efren Gutierrez
Lyla Hassan, daughter of Humeira Akbar & Saamir Hassan

Logan Hawkins, son of Alyse & Paul Hawkins
Brooke Kaplan, daughter of Erin & Steven Kaplan
Hazel Kass, daughter of Lauren & Benjamin Kass
Zev Kass, son of Lauren & Benjamin Kass
Jonathan Kazaz, son of Adi Zevulun & Eidan Kazaz
Evan Lichman, son of Rachael & Barry Lichman
Georgia Lurie, daughter of Sarah & Seth Lurie
Aiden Mayer, son of Geraldine Daumerie & Wesley Mayer
Charlotte Nelson, daughter of Laura Juliano & James Nelson
Isaac Plotkin, son of Aliza & Jason Plotkin
Adam Rahman, son of Amina Malik & Shahid Rahman
Simren Randhawa, daughter of Manreet Kaur & Hardeep Randhawa
Evie Rubenstein, daughter of Jodi & Michael Rubenstein
Matthew Sada, son of Yvonne & David Sada
Benjamin Sher, son of Carol Liu & Andrew Sher
Ashton Stockel, son of Jennifer & David Stockel
Wyatt Ybarra, son of Hilary & Steve Ybarra
Maebyn Yoburn, daughter of Tewlyn & Jesse Yoburn

Becker School Kindergarten Graduates for 2021

Elijah Collins, son of Michelle Weisman & Kenneth Collins
Emma Hagegard, daughter of Jennie & Marcus Hagegard
Payton Magliaro, son of Christina Valkovich & Anthony Magliaro
Ariana Manal, daughter of Huma & Nabeel Manal
Zayd Manal, son of Huma & Nabeel Manal
Noah Promecene, son of Melanie & Chris Promecene
Fernando Rivero, son of Mitzi & Francisco Rivero
Bea Segal, daughter of Cantor Rollin Simmons & Rabbi David Segal
Sierra Wilson, daughter of Anthanette & Chad Wilson



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jeri Amundsen

The report of president Jeri Amundsen as delivered on Sunday, April 18 at the congregation's annual meeting.

Thank you again for joining the 2021 Annual Meeting. It has been an extraordinary year for all of us. When we gathered last year for our first ever online Annual Meeting, we had just entered the lockdown triggered by the global Covid19 pandemic. Our campus was initially closed; our staff worked mostly from home and our Becker and Helfman schools moved to remote learning. In-person programming and life cycle events were canceled or postponed indefinitely. Immediately, our clergy and staff worked to ensure that our worship services and pastoral care continued without interruption.

Our lay leaders also quickly responded to the pandemic. In June, we assembled the Reopening Task Force to develop safety protocols and a phased plan to return to campus. Guided by the health and wellbeing of our community, the task force continues to meet regularly to stay up to date on the evolving science and fine-tune best practices for our organization. I want to thank Task Force chair Philip Tenenbaum and members Rebecca Lunstroth, Dr. Eric Blacher, and Dr. Ed Septimus for their wise counsel. We are incredibly fortunate to have their expertise and help with distilling the mountains of data, reports and ever-changing guidelines on Covid-19. With their help, we are safely easing back to our campus.

During the past year, our board of trustees became experts on Zoom, meeting regularly to confront the many financial and logistical problems thrown our way by the pandemic. By June we had approved pay freezes for staff and signed off on holding our High Holy Days remotely. For the first time in the history of Emanu El, our sanctuary would be empty for an entire High Holy Day season. Fully understanding the impact that decision would have on our members, our clergy put their energy and talent into creating a superb online experience for our 2020 High Holy Days. With all hands on deck from staff and our amazing technical support team, our members and friends across the country shared a beautiful and meaningful holiday experience, when we needed it most. Thank you Rabbi Hayon, Rabbi Silk, Rabbi Fixler and Cantor Simmons for the tremendous care you have shown our community during this year of isolation.

Like most businesses and nonprofits, Emanu El was not immune to the economic challenges of 2020. As Treasurer Fredi Franks will share in more detail later in the meeting, financial concerns demanded a lot of attention from the staff and lay leadership last year. With revenue streams reduced and the future uncertain, the board approved salary reductions to our administrative and senior staff, but we still faced a deficit. To tackle the deficit, I asked Mark Brookner and Dawn Blitz to co-chair an ad hoc Revenue Task Force. I want to thank Mark, Dawn, Rodney Roth, Elyse Kalmans, Fredi Franks, Rabbi Walter and David Lamden for quickly mobilizing to brainstorm ways to bridge the budget gap. Thanks to this hardworking group, our Covid Relief Fund received more than \$370,000 in contributions and grants from several foundations, the Federation and Houston Jewish Community Foundation, our own Sisterhood and from more than 330 of our remarkable members. I am proud to share that every member of the board and executive committee participated in Covid Relief Fund. Thank you to the foundations, and THANK YOU to our generous members who stepped up when your congregation needed you. Your philanthropy provides critical support to maintaining our financial health now and in the coming years.

Strengthening Emanu El's revenue stream has been an ongoing topic for many years, and often included future plans for a development director. I am happy to report that our leadership has endorsed the plan and we are actively searching for a Director of Congregational Advancement to join our senior staff team. With a staff reorganization and some funding from endowment, this new hire will be budget neutral.

The Emanu El Endowment continues to play an important role in our annual operating budget and our financial stability. For many years, our endowment funds have been managed in-house by our own Investment Committee, led by Mark Brookner. They have done a phenomenal job and I'm delighted to report that our true endowment fund portfolio has seen a 26% return since May 1, 2020. Not included in this number are two new Endowment funds established this spring. Thanks to the generosity of two families, the Emanu El Endowment added the Bill & Joan Spitz Presidential Leadership Fund, in memory of our past president Bill Spitz.

And the Sybil and Ralph Balasco Fund, received as a bequest from our member Sybil Balasco. Thank you to the Spitz and Balasco families for these meaningful gifts.

The endowment provides the funding for much of our temple programming. When Covid-19 forced us to move to a virtual platform, Programming Director Jason Plotkin got to work. In the last year, we've had innovative programs with Elana Arian, Noah Aronson, Ambassador Dennis Ross, Judge Lina Hidalgo, and Thao Costis of SEARCH. The Sisterhood enjoyed great attendance at their virtual programs, including the wonderful donor event with Barbara Pierce Bush and another featuring Bob

Stein discussing the presidential election. Emanu El continues to host book reviews, Trivia Nights, Torah studies, and film reviews led by congregants, community leaders and our clergy. The unexpected upside to shifting to online platforms was the ability to engage so many new participants, allowing our community to learn together, sing from our homes and be exposed to topical, relevant conversations impacting those around us.

With the rollout of vaccinations, and the temple now in Phase 4 of its Reopening plan, many of us are ready to carefully gather together. I'm excited to share that in-person events are returning to our campus, including Friday night Shabbat services, traditional community service programs such as Kids Meals and Snack Packs for SEARCH, as well as new programs including a lawn concert in June, an interactive storyteller for young families and a mezuzah-making Havdalah happy hour for those in their 30s and 40s. You can even join some of the senior staff for the Wednesday morning running club around Rice University. Next week, members of the Classics – those in their 50s and 60s – will gather in the sculpture garden for Havdalah. Jason is also working with our volunteer-led affinity groups and Brotherhood to resume their in-person events.

Despite the pandemic's disruption of schools everywhere, Becker and Helfman have emerged better and stronger under the leadership of Stefani Carlson, our Director of Congregational Learning. She and her team adapted Helfman's curriculum for remote learning, reorganized the Education department to link Becker and Helfman in important ways, and piloted the very successful Small Group Hebrew for grades 4-6 to ensure deeper learning for those students. The weekly T'filah services reach hundreds of students and families, and the preK-3rd grade program won an award for innovative Hebrew education. The B'nei Mitzvah program moved seamlessly to Zoom, ensuring that all 48 B'nei Mitzvah students have been well prepared to lead our congregation in prayer and Torah from our Barish Sanctuary with their families present. Sadly, the pandemic forced the postponement of the Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience until summer 2022; but thanks to the generosity of the Barish family, we are able to offer graduating seniors a voucher for a future educational trip to Israel.

Becker has much to celebrate too. After a nationwide search and a semester as Interim Director, Sarah Williams was named Director of Becker School in January. Her strong vision and passion for early childhood education, coupled with her warm, caring personality and confident managerial style has enabled Becker to flourish this year. It was no surprise that her selection was unanimously endorsed by the Search Committee and enthusiastically supported by the Becker staff. Last September, Becker welcomed students and teachers back to the classrooms, and with Sarah at the helm, our treasured preschool has enjoyed a remarkably successful year, with a healthy spring enrollment and a nearly full summer program. Fall registrations are filling up and virtually every teacher and staff member intend to return. It was a Herculean effort to safely and successfully reopen Becker, and keep it open. I want to thank the Becker staff, Barbara Loeser, Ed Septimus, David Lamden, Jose Perez and the Temple maintenance crew for their assistance in keeping our classrooms filled with happy children this year.

While the Board has not met in person during the past 12 months, our trustees have worked hard to tackle the usual challenges as well as the unusual hurdles of a global health crisis. The board oversaw several new initiatives this year. The first is our Congregant Outreach Campaign. Recognizing the emotional toll of being socially isolated during quarantine, last spring the Board launched this effort to reach out to our members during the pandemic. To date, our trustees and other volunteers have personally called nearly 1000 member households to check in with them and to share ways to connect with Emanu El's clergy and programming. Our efforts will continue in the months to come. Thank you to all who made calls, and to Diane Puschett, Brooke Reichel and Rabbi Silk for leading this important effort.

Another noteworthy achievement at Emanu El this year was EEVotes – a nonpartisan get-out-the-vote campaign aimed at increasing our congregation's voter participation in the 2020 election. As a result of this team's more than 800 calls and emails to members, Emanu El's voter participation saw an 18% increase over 2018. Many thanks to Emily Schaffer, Keith Remels and Rabbi Fixler for championing this important work and continuing Emanu El's rich history of social action.

Our roots in social action and Jewish values led the board to wrestle with another important conversation – one that virtually every Reform congregation is having now: diversity, equity and inclusion in our community. Our board's work has focused on understanding how Emanu El can be a place where Jews of Color can feel a sense of sacred belonging. The board began with a community book read last summer and is now engaged in a series of workshops with a professional coach, LaTonya Wilkins, to facilitate a discussion about our practices at Emanu El and how we can do better to embrace the diversity that is the reality of modern Jewish life.

A synagogue is a community of members, and our members are the highest priority of the board. I'm grateful to the board for taking on the sacred responsibility of outreach to our congregants this year as well as engaging in the difficult and often uncomfortable conversations on inclusion and belonging. I want to thank the board for their engagement this year and their ongoing commitment to Emanu El.

I also want to thank the Executive Committee. As I said earlier, it has been an extraordinary year, and the EC has stepped up in extraordinary ways. I am incredibly grateful for your counsel this year.

Finally, I can't give enough thanks to our Emanu El staff and clergy. The new demands of a virtual world often kept our staff working almost 24/7. And to our remarkable clergy team, it has been an honor to work so closely with you and see the infinite care and energy you bring to our congregation.



Rabbi Hayon to Receive Rabbinic Human Rights Award from T'ruah

Rabbi Oren Hayon will receive the Rabbinic Human Rights Award from T'ruah at their virtual gala, A celebration of Human Rights, on **Wednesday, May 26 at 5:45 p.m.** T'ruah recognizes "his courageous leadership in protecting refugees as Chair of Refugee Services for Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, which operates one of the largest and most robust programs for resettling political refugees to the United States."

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights brings together rabbis and cantors from all streams of Judaism and the Jewish community to act on the Jewish imperative to respect and advance the human rights of all people. Their work includes organizing rabbis, cantors, and their communities to make an impact through specific human rights campaigns; training student and current rabbis and cantors to be powerful human rights leaders; and amplifying their voices on the pressing human rights concerns of our time.

Honorees include Marc Elias receiving the Raphael Lemkin Human Rights Award for his fight to secure our democracy and fierce, unwavering commitment to resisting suppressive voting laws and practices. Also receiving the Rabbinic Human Rights Hero Award are Rabbi Rachel Greengrass for representing the Jewish community in a fearless fight to reunite immigrant families and restore the rights of the formerly incarcerated, and Rabbi Lila Kagedan for bringing a strong, steady Jewish ethical voice to issues of racism, equity, education, and medicine in her community and beyond.

Leah Donnella, an editor on NPR's Code Switch team, will speak, and Joey Weisenberg, founder and director of Hadar's Rising Song Institute and author of *The Torah of Music* (2017 National Jewish Book Award) is the musical guest.

Registration is free with a suggested donation of \$180, but all are welcome to give as they are comfortable. Information and opportunities to support Rabbi Hayon and T'ruah are available at www.truah.org/gala2021.

New Traditions Gift Shop Open by Appointment

In conjunction with Congregation Emanu El's reopening plan, the New Traditions gift shop is open by appointment only on **Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Looking to make an appointment or have any questions? Please call the New Traditions gift shop at 713.529.5771, ext. 234.



Judy Salmon recently stopped by the Sisterhood's New Traditions Gift Shop to make a purchase from Donnie Bundman.

Memorial Plaques Deadline of Tuesday, June 1 to Ensure Placement Prior to High Holy Days

Many members of our congregation choose to memorialize their loved ones with a permanent plaque on the yearzeit wall of the Barish Sanctuary, which also provides for the perpetual reading of their names as part of the Friday evening Mourner's Kaddish.

To ensure that your loved ones' plaques are placed on the wall in time for High Holy Days in early September, we encourage you to purchase plaques by the close of business on **Tuesday, June 1**. For more information, contact Alisha Klapholz at alishak@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 213.

continued next page

Rabbi Hayon Joins Virtual Press Conference in Support of Texas George Floyd Act (HB88)



On Wednesday, April 7, Rabbi Hayon joined with our coalition partners RAC-TX, Texas Impact, and Faith in Texas to speak in support of the Texas George Floyd Act (HB 88) comprising several pieces of proposed legislation police reform currently making their way through the Texas State Legislature.

An excerpt of Rabbi Hayon’s remarks can be found below:

“Advocating for equal justice under the law is hard too: it makes strenuous demands of voters and legislators and sometimes it might feel scary. And that’s why we talk about it in scripture and in prayer not just in the halls of our legislature or the academies of our law enforcement agencies; because faith helps us make our way through uncertainty and fear and toward fairness and justice.”

Emanu El Seeks Camp Addresses for Children Planning to Attend Summer Camp

Everyone loves getting mail at summer camp! Please send us your children’s addresses for camp this summer (and the dates they’ll be there!) so we can send something to them. Please email information to Alisha Klapholz: alishak@emanuelhouston.org.

A Mitzvah Project at Willow Waterhole Greenway

Our B’nei Mitzvah students are asked to do a mitzvah project associated with their simcha, in addition to a tzedakah project. Here’s a glimpse into one of the recent projects conducted by one of our B’nei Mitzvah pairings.



A sweet moment captured! At the end of February, upcoming Bat Mitzvah students Rayna & Melody did a joint mitzvah project, planting trees at Willow Waterhole Greenway.



Rabbi Fixler joined Rayna, Melody, their families and friends in a blessing before the trees were planted. Thanks for sharing this mitzvot with us and Mazel Tov!

Our clergy want to know . . .

If you or a loved one is sick or hospitalized please let us know.

Contact the synagogue at 713.529.5771, so that our rabbis can reach out and visit and be a source of strength and support.

Visiting the sick and praying for those who are ill are important and meaningful mitzvot.

CONGREGATION EMANU EL HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING ONLINE

continued from page 1

Amundsen who shared highlights of the last year during her president's report was re-elected as President of the congregation for a second year.

Many of the highlights shared by Amundsen focused on the efforts made by the COVID-19 Task Force chaired by Philip Tenenbaum and the work of the Board of Trustees during this difficult year.

The task force's work in-conjunction with the staff enabled the Becker School to open in September and make decisions related to re-opening the synagogue for worship and programming. The board was lauded for their assistance in making financial decisions and supporting the clergy in pivoting to an online High Holy Day experience.

Other highlights included the establishment of the Bill & Joan Spitz Presidential Leadership Fund of the Sybil & Ralph Balasco Fund. The Spitz Fund was established in memory of past president Bill Spitz while the Balasco Fund was created as a bequest by our member Sybil Belasco. These two endowment funds join Emanu El's endowment portfolio which saw a 26% return in the last year.

During the congregation's elections, the members elected the following individuals to one-year terms to join Amundsen on the executive committee: Stuart Gaylor, Senior Vice President; Alana Pulaski, Vice President of Committees & Volunteer Management; Matt Pasternak, Vice President of Committees & Volunteer Management; Melissa Carson, Vice President of Education; Ronnie Kurtin, Vice President of Personnel; Fredi Bleeker Franks, Treasurer; and Dawn Blitz, Secretary. Rodney Roth will continue in his role as honorary president. Pulaski and Pasternak are new to the executive committee.

Elected to three-year terms on the board ending in 2024 were Nancy Parkans Ehrenkranz, Tammy Feldstein, Ivy Frank, Laura Mayer, Ben Miller, Bob Schaffer and Emily Schaffer.

New board members include Richard Buxbaum, who was elected to fill the remaining two years of a three-year term that ends in 2023. Dan Gospin, Beth Merfish and Ben Proler were also elected to one-year terms ending in 2022.

Remaining on the board are Ralph Herring, Elyse Kalman, Dora Klaff, Bruce Lessey, Diane Puschet, Annie Stein, Michael Epstein, Stephanie Gabelnick, Greta Pliskin, Brooke Reichel and Philip Tenenbaum.

Terms that concluded with this annual meeting include Hannah Brook, Nicole Longnecker and Burton Manne.

In addition to the forementioned president's report, the congregation approved the budget and were provided a look back at the past year by Rabbi Hayon.

The reports made by both Amundsen and Hayon are available on the synagogue's Facebook page and YouTube channel. Amundsen's remarks can also be found on pages 10-11 of this edition of the *Bulletin*.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome Our Newest Members

We are pleased to welcome the newest members to our congregational family. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

Robin & William Adams
Meredith & Seth Bleiler,
daughter **Emily**
Jeffrey Cohen
Peter Fixler
Gina & Graham Gaylor
Mollie Gaylor
Sophie Gaylor
Jessica Goldman & Bryan Sabo
David Kaufman
Ali Korfin, children Ethan, Emma & Ellie
Judit Krijgh-Bozsán & David Krijgh,
daughters **Hannah & Estee**
Rachel & Shaun Leva,
daughter **Brooke**
Kristin & Ian Levine
Marlene Montelongo & Jake Robinson
Liana & Andrew Schwaizberg,
children **Siena & Rory**
Callie & Benjamin Seidman,
sons **Lucas & William**
Michael Sigman
Kimberly & Adam Siegel
Hayley Stulmaker & Danny Shoham,
children **Eliana & Evan**
Lea & Andrew Torok,
daughters **Ella & Maya**

New members will be shared in the Bulletin regularly. Know someone interested in becoming a part of our community? New to town or looking to find a way to connect with Emanu El? Contact Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6414.



Get Social With Us!

Did you know Congregation Emanu El is on Instagram? In addition to our active Facebook pages, be sure to follow us on Instagram to catch snap shots of happenings around the synagogue. From camel sightings to social action, a thriving youth group to clergy in action and more!

Find us on Instagram at [instagram.com/emanuelhouston](https://www.instagram.com/emanuelhouston) or if you are already a member, find us at @emanuelhouston. And yes, please feel free to "check-in" at Emanu El when you are here for events and happenings!



Helfman Religious School

Helfman Religious School Enrollment Underway for 2021-22 School Year

If this year has taught us anything it is that nothing is certain; however, our intent is to return to on-campus learning for most of our programs in the 2021-2022 school year.

Enrollment is taking place online using Emanu El's online portal.

1. Visit emanuelhouston.org and log into your account.
2. Fill out all of the required information.
3. Payment of the \$100/child non-refundable registration fee is necessary to confirm your enrollment.
4. For your enrollment to be confirmed, your Temple account must be in good standing.
5. We will confirm enrollment(s) once the forms are complete, the registration fee is paid, and your Temple account has been reviewed. The balance of the tuition will then be added to your account, and is **due by August 31, 2021**.

If you have any questions, contact Elizabeth Townsend at 713.535.6400 or elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org.

Helfman Religious School Hosting Last Day Celebration

Helfman will celebrate the last day of the school year with a special online assembly and an outdoor family picnic and play day on **Sunday, May 23**. The festivities will be accompanied by a Sisterhood New Traditions Sidewalk Sale.

The east gate (entry closest to Hermann Park) will be for pre-registered timed entry for the carnival activities, including games, inflatables and a "Tze-dunk-a" booth. We will have our traditional hot dog lunch, socially distanced on the front lawn. Families will receive Helfman logo picnic blankets as a year-end gift. The food and fun are sponsored by the Helfman Religious School Committee.

Helfman families are encouraged to check their weekly Helfman Herald email for more specifics on registration and the day of activities.

Those attending the New Traditions Sidewalk Sale should park in the west surface lot and walk through the pedestrian gate to the sale, which will be taking place under the portico on the west side of the synagogue campus.

Teens Enjoy Movie Night & Putt Putt Fun at Emanu El

In mid-April, our Emanu El teens gathered at the synagogue for a movie night. The evening started with putt putt golf in the Oshman Multi-Purpose Room before continuing on to Feld Hall for a screening of Shrek.

Originally planned to take place outdoors, rain forced the event inside. It was so exciting to have our teens back in the building! For further updates on teen and youth activities, please contact Becca Schwartzberg at beccas@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 204.





ENDOWMENT FUND SERIES

IT'S BACK!

Big Summer Fun – Let's Go Camping!

“The Jewish camping experience is strongly engrained in the culture of Congregation Emanu El. Going to camp is an extension of who we are as a temple – inclusive, diverse, educational, spiritual and full of connections. It offers students an adventure like no other, and in its own way, prepares our youth to lead and insure our congregation's future.”

– Rabbi Oren Hayon

Congregation Emanu El has long embraced its connection to Jewish summer camps. Rabbi Robert I. Kahn, Rabbi Roy Walter and Emanu El leadership were actively involved in establishing and funding the Union for Reform Judaism's Greene Family Camp (GFC) in Bruceville, Texas. Since its creation, Emanu El has annually sent one of the largest delegations to GFC from across the region, and has routinely been one of the most active synagogues participating in camp programs throughout the year. Many of the congregation's campers go on to become counselors and Unit Leaders at camp, while our rabbis and educational team make it a priority to maintain a visible presence throughout the summer.

This spring, the tradition of Emanu El's involvement with summer camp returns, as the synagogue and its auxiliaries continue to support students from the Helfman Religious School. Campership Awards represent partial GFC tuition for one full session and are given to students both with and without financial need. In 2020-21, over \$35,000 in Campership awards came directly from camp-related Endowment Funds, enabling 18 students to enjoy a Jewish camp experience, in Texas and beyond. The campership awards (listed on this page) are determined through drawing contests, essays, scholastic achievement and leadership skills, and are dependent on the student's age and grade. In addition to these awards, the Barbara & Mark Brookner Campership Fund allows our synagogue an opportunity to provide needs-based scholarships to those going to camp.

ENDOWED CAMBERSHIP AWARDS:

Chester Marcus GFC Campership Award: Based on their enthusiasm for Judaism, good attendance in Religious School, making an effort, participating in activities and will find benefit from a Jewish camp experience. Established by Shirley Burkom, in memory of her husband, Chester Marcus.

Connie Reischer GFC Campership Award: Based on financial need, desire to attend camp, sincerity and general good attitude. Established by Kay Schwartz Feldt, to honor the memory of her daughter, Connie Reischer.

Ricky Schnurr GFC Campership Award: Awarded to a student with special needs who will benefit from receiving an award and from a Jewish camp experience. Established by Gladys Schnurr, to honor the memory of her son, Ricky Schnurr.

Adele Buchman GFC Campership Award: Awarded to a student from a single-parent home who could benefit from receiving an award and from a Jewish camp experience. Established by Jason Buchman, to honor the memory of his mother, Adele Buchman.

“We created our Endowment when there were not many Camperships. As a school psychologist in the Houston Independent School District, Chester was surrounded by kids all day. He understood them and liked them, even when they had issues. We thought it would be meaningful to do something that benefitted children, which would have made him very happy.”

SHIRLEY BURKOM, reflecting on her late husband and the Chester Marcus Campership, established in his memory

Ben and Esther Noble Campership Awards: Presented to confirmands who have exhibited outstanding leadership in youth group or class. The award is given to attend a NFTY-TOR event held at GFC or can be used for any Israel trip.

Campership awards outside of the Endowment also come from Sisterhood, Brotherhood and the Religious School Community Committee.

Financial Need Based Campership Award:

Barbara and Mark Brookner Campership Award: A needs-based Campership.

Guidance from our past, growth for our future

Campership 2020-21 Award Winners:

Sabrina Eisner
Evelyn Krohn
Hannah Mermelstein
Maya Sacks
Wyatt Greenberg
Eli Friesen
Lexie Rose
Noah Septimus



Be a Part of It

To learn more about Emanu El's involvement in GFC or connect with parents who have sent their children to URJ-affiliated summer camp, please contact Daniel Pesikoff, one of our camp committee members.

To create an Endowed Campership Fund or make a donation to an existing fund, please contact David Lamden at DavidL@emanuelhouston.org or scan the QR code.

"My son Ricky was as sensitive as he was popular. He was always aware of other people's needs and feelings. When we decided to honor his memory, we wanted to support children who have specific needs, who might otherwise go overlooked. In addition, my daughter Elissa was a counselor at Greene Family Camp the first year it opened. Our family always had warm memories about the importance of the Jewish camping experience, and the difference it makes. The Campership has been a satisfying gift for us all."

GLADYS SCHNURR, reflecting on her late son and the Ricky Schnurr Campership, established in his memory





We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through April 14, 2021.

ACCESS FOR ALL FUND

To ensure Emanu El is a welcoming, accessible and inclusive community

A Donation

Sandra & Drew Ernstein
Emanu El Clergy
Lila Gordon

In Appreciation of
Sam Jacobson & Carl Josephart

Caren & David Cowan

In Memory of
Jerry Fishel

Carolyn Solar
Hy Warshaw
Caren & David Cowan

AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

To support small and emerging organizations that improve life for underserved Houstonians

In Memory of
Lucille Gidseg
Sylvia Farb

BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

To enhance the Becker School

In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
The Riben Family

BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To provide scholarships to the Becker School

In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Joanie Murland

BILL & JOAN SPITZ PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP FUND

To strengthen the vision of Congregation Emanu El's leaders

In Memory of
William "Bill" Spitz
Janis & Stephen Block

Janice & Buni Dinner
Audrey & Ray Maislin
David Neuberger
Stephen Shaper
Evelyn, Eric & Tamra Solomon
Steve Zelinger & Family

CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND

To beautify Emanu El Memorial Park

In Memory of
William "Bill" Spitz
Kelly & James Cersonsky

CHESTER MARCUS CAMPERSHIP FUND

To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships

In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Shirley Burkorn

CLERGY'S GOOD WORKS FUND

To provide Emanu El's clergy with funds to help individuals in need and to support organizations that benefit the community

A Donation
Winter Storm Uri recovery assistance

Bucks County Jewish Congregation dba Shir Ami

In Appreciation of
Rabbi Pamela Silk, Rabbi Josh Fixler, & Cantor Rollin Simmons
Regan & Jon Kasman

In Honor of
The B'not Mitzvah of Sydney & Zoe Kasman
Regan & Jon Kasman

The Speedy Recovery of Michael Karchmer
Libby & Buz Marvins

In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Susie & David Askanase
Sara Astrich
Jeff & Karen
Basen-Engquist

Charlotte Berkowitz
Hannah Brook & Jeff Peskin
Carol & Gary Brush
Stefani & Steve Carlson
Dee Dee Dochen
Michael Epstein & Janice Poplack
Tammy & Dan Feldstein
Sam Jacobson & Carl Josephart
Leda & Mike Karchmer
Linda & Harris Miller
Marilyn Nathan
Diane Puschett
Seth Riklin
Evelyn Roth & Family
Rozanne & Howard Rubin
Carol Lee Seliger
Alison & Joshua Septimus
Susan & Syd Waldman
Marcia & Phillip Weinstein
Eileen & Richard Westerman

Harry Brochstein
Mary G. Brochstein & Carnell Henderson
Marie Brochstein & Family

Richard Cassidy
Patti Rounsevell & Kenneth Labowitz

Joyce Cohan
Patti & Dan Steiner
Esther Goldy Gamache & Charles E. Soffar
Gail Shinbaum & William D. Soffar

Jennifer Ruggeri
Marie Brochstein & Family

Gerry Schenberg
Sandy & Michael Wexler
William "Bill" Spitz
Houston Jewish Funerals

COVID RELIEF FUND
To support the synagogue through the challenges brought on by COVID
A Donation
Maynard & Arlyne Gimble

EDIS LEWIS PARKANS EMANU ELDERS FUND

To provide programs for the Emanu Elders

In Memory of
Daniel Dror
Anonymous

EDWARD WAYNE HUNGER FUND

To feed the hungry of Houston

In Honor of
Milton Altschuler's Birthday
Susie & David Askanase

Al Eisenberg's Birthday
Sara Astrich

Ellen & Frank Gittess Wedding Anniversary
Susie & David Askanase

The Speedy Recovery of Michael Karchmer
Diane Puschett
Kay & Alvin Zeisman

In Memory of
Nelly Levy Berg & Sarah Breier Klein
Sara Berg Astrich & Lorraine Berg Wulfe

ESTHER SHELBY FELLOWSHIP FUND

To provide food and refreshments for Emanu El programs that bring members closer to the congregation and to each other

In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Aliza, Jason & Isaac Plotkin

FLORENCE & BEN BLUM LEADERSHIP FUND

To send Emanu El leadership to URJ Biennials and underwrite leadership programs and speakers
In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Sara Brook

continued next page

Hy Warshaw
Myra Lipper

**FREDELL LACK EICHHORN
CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND**

To enhance musical
programming
In Memory of
Michael Loeb
Jean & Sanders Beckman

**GENERAL ENDOWMENT
FUND**

To provide for the general
needs of Emanu El and its
facilities
In Honor of
Elsa Laufman's Birthday
Nora Laufman

In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Rabbi Ranon Teller

**GREENE FAMILY CAMP
FUND**

To support Greene Family
Camp
In Honor of
**The B'not Mitzvah of
Sydney & Zoe Kasman**
Regan & Jon Kasman

In Memory of
**Joyce Cohan
Carol Ross**
Jennifer & Jeffrey Ross
**Mel Sheinberg, Morton
Krumholz, Rae & Morris
Sheinberg, Esther &
Max Buchman, Dora &
Ben Golub, Helen &
Jake Kasman**
Regan & Jon Kasman
Roger Sofer
Jennifer & Jeffrey Ross

**JASON & DAVID MARCUS
PLAYSPACE FUND**

To maintain and enhance
the playground
In Memory of
Jerry Fishel
Zach Freedman, Rhonda
& Seth Freedman

**JEAN & JULIAN GOLDBERG
CHILDREN'S FUND**

To provide arts programs
for children
In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Ralph G. Howard

**MICHAEL SPOLANE
EDUCATION FUND**

To enhance Helfman
Religious School programs
and provide funds for
teachers to attend
conferences
In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Pamela Hoffer Wallock &
Mark Wallock

**RABBI ROY & LINDA
WALTER ENRICHMENT
FUND**

In Appreciation of
Ed Septimus
Caren & David Cowan

In Honor of
Caren Cowan
Linda Rauch Susman
**Aaron Fradkin's
Birthday**
Carol & Larry Fradkin

In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Anonymous
Sandi & Bob Greenston
Jo Ann Levine
Joyce Cohan
Linda & Harris Miller
Alfred Goodman
Joyce Goodman &
The Goodman Family

Jennifer Rosenthal
Janie & Jon Pollock

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

To provide religious school
scholarships
In Memory of
Sophie Bagelman
Elaine Helfman

**RIVA BURSTEN CARING
CONGREGATION FUND**

To support programs that
assist people in the
community
In Honor of
**The Speedy Recovery of
Michael Karchmer**
Nancy Peskin

**RONALD BROCHSTEIN
EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

To enhance preschool
education
In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Carol Sue & Michael
Zionts

**SHIRLEY BARISH MEMO-
RIAL ISRAEL EXPERIENCE
FUND**

To send Helfman Religious
School high school
students to Israel
In Honor of
**Susan & Ed Septimus
Wedding Anniversary**
The Austin Septimus

In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Brenda & Chuck Weiser
Family

**SISTERHOOD FLOWER
FUND**

To provide flowers for our
Emanu El worship spaces
In Memory of
David A. Freedman
Rhonda & Seth
Freedman & Family

**SUSMAN FUND FOR
FAMILY PROGRAMMING**

To support programs for
families
In Honor of
Linda Susman
Patricia & Mark Rauch

In Memory of
Jerry Fishel
Pamela & Andrew Susman

**SYBIL & RALPH BALASCO
FUND**

For the benefit of the
congregation as best
determined by the
Endowment Fund
committee
In Memory of
Sybil Balasco
Jennifer & Stuart Garber
Harriet F. Reitman
Sybil & Ralph Balasco
Anita & Stuart Gaylor

TEMPLE FUND

To support the needs of the
Temple and to fulfill the
mission of Congregation
Emanu El

In Honor of
Aaron Fradkin's Birthday
Carol & Michael Wilk
**Carl Josehart – 2021 NJHSA
Extraordinary
Leadership Award**
**The Speedy Recovery of
Samuel Jacobson**
Yolanda & David Tisdale
Michael Karchmer
Susie & David Askanase
Ellis Tudzin
Gloria & Ben Tobor

In Memory of
Andra Winkelman Barr
Fannette Blum
Lisa & Sam Brill
Donnie Bundman
Barbara Feldman
fredi & Paul Franks
Elyse, Lewis, Aerin,
Kendall & Tali Kalmans
Ina Perlman
Debora & Keith Remels
Gloria & Ben Tobor
Carol & Michael Wilk
Richard Wolf

Daniel Dror
Varda & Jess Fields
Jazz Hamilton &
Darin Gosda – CBRE, Inc.
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Massako Kutyna
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Jack Lanigan
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Paula & Irving Pozmantier
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Hanna Kaplan**
Sheila & Jerald Kaplan
Jaclyn Gachman Kenneally
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grat·i·tude
/gradə,t(y)ōd/ noun

Definition: the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

I want to thank everyone for the honor and privilege of serving families within the community. It is most humbling to be given your trust and the great responsibility of taking care of your loved ones.

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BOOK OF MEMORY 2021

The *Book of Memory* is shared at our Yom Kippur Yizkor service and is among our most treasured congregational traditions. In it we inscribe the names of our loved ones, and it serves as an acknowledgement that those who came before us, taught us, loved us and inspired us, and have not been forgotten.

While our congregation and the world around us continue to move forward through the COVID-19 pandemic, which will continue to adapt our traditions. All congregants will receive a copy of the *Book of Memory* through the mail in advance of Yom Kippur in order to preserve this cherished traditions despite the upheaval and discontinuity that the pandemic has brought. Additional copies will be available at the synagogue following the High Holy Days. We suggest a minimum of \$15 per name.

Due to our mailing and printing deadlines, all information and donations must be received by the office by **Wednesday, July 28**. Information received after the deadline will be printed in the *Bulletin*. We regret that we cannot take *Book of Memory* information over the phone.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

REMEMBERED BY:

Please complete and return this form with your check to:
Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77005.

DaytimePhone _____ Email _____



Congregation **Emanu El**



This Bulletin is printed on recycled paper.



Congregation Emanu El

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Pamela B. Silk, Associate Rabbi
Joshua R.S. Fixler, Associate Rabbi
Roy A. Walter, Rabbi Emeritus
Rollin Simmons, Cantor
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Jason Plotkin, Program Director
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Carol Sue Zions, Sisterhood President

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SAVE THE DATE:



Fourth of July with Congregation Emanu El
(IN PERSON)
Sunday, July 4, 7:30 p.m.

Our annual Fourth of July celebration is back at Congregation Emanu El after a one-year hiatus. The modified night of festivities will kick off at 7:30 p.m. and due to space considerations, pre-registration will be required. More information will be shared in the June edition of the *Bulletin*.



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